



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

Amendment

LCO No. 5291

HB0582605291HDO

Offered by:

REP. FLEISCHMANN, 18th Dist.
SEN. GAFFEY, 13th Dist.
REP. ABERCROMBIE, 83rd Dist.
REP. HOVEY, 112th Dist.
REP. WITKOS, 17th Dist.
REP. JARMOC, 59th Dist.

REP. BYE, 19th Dist.
REP. MORRIS, 140th Dist.
REP. HEINRICH, 101st Dist.
REP. GENGA, 10th Dist.
REP. MUSHINSKY, 85th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5826

File No. 627

Cal. No. 377

"AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT."

1 Strike sections 4 and 5 in their entirety and insert the following in
2 lieu thereof:

3 "Sec. 4. Section 10-222d of the general statutes is repealed and the
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

5 Each local and regional board of education shall develop and
6 implement a policy [, for use on and after February 1, 2003,] to address
7 the existence of bullying in its schools. Such policy shall: (1) Enable
8 students to anonymously report acts of bullying to teachers and school
9 administrators and require students to be notified annually of the
10 process by which they may make such reports, (2) enable the parents
11 or guardians of students to file written reports of suspected bullying,

12 (3) require teachers and other school staff who witness acts of bullying
13 or receive student reports of bullying to notify school administrators in
14 writing, (4) require school administrators to investigate any written
15 reports [filed pursuant to subdivision (2) of] made under this section
16 and to review any anonymous reports, except that no disciplinary
17 action shall be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report, (5)
18 include [an] a prevention and intervention strategy, as defined by this
19 act, for school staff to deal with bullying, (6) provide for the inclusion
20 of language in student codes of conduct concerning bullying, (7)
21 require each school to notify the parents or guardians of students who
22 commit any verified acts of bullying and the parents or guardians of
23 students against whom such acts were directed, [to be notified] and
24 invite them to attend at least one meeting, (8) require each school to
25 maintain a list of the number of verified acts of bullying in such school
26 and make such list available for public inspection, and, within
27 available appropriations, report such number to the Department of
28 Education, (9) direct the development of case-by-case interventions for
29 addressing repeated incidents of bullying against a single individual
30 or recurrently perpetrated bullying incidents by the same individual
31 that may include both counseling and discipline, and (10) identify the
32 appropriate school personnel, which may include, but shall not be
33 limited to, pupil services personnel, responsible for taking a bullying
34 report and investigating the complaint. The notification required
35 pursuant to subdivision (7) of this section shall include a description of
36 the response of school staff to such acts and any consequences that
37 may result from the commission of further acts of bullying. For
38 purposes of this section, "bullying" means any overt acts by a student
39 or a group of students directed against another student with the intent
40 to ridicule, harass, humiliate or intimidate the other student while on
41 school grounds, at a school-sponsored activity or on a school bus,
42 which acts are [repeated against the same student over time]
43 committed more than once against any student during the school year.
44 Such policies may include provisions addressing bullying outside of
45 the school setting if it has a direct and negative impact on a student's
46 academic performance or safety in school. Not later than July 1, 2009,

47 each local or regional board of education shall ensure that the policy is
48 included in the school district's publication of the rules, procedures
49 and standards of conduct for schools and in all student handbooks.

50 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) For the purposes of section 10-
51 222d of the general statutes, as amended by this act, the term
52 "prevention and intervention strategy" may include, but is not limited
53 to, (1) implementation of a positive behavioral interventions and
54 supports process or another evidence-based model approach for safe
55 school climate or for the prevention of bullying identified by the
56 Department of Education, (2) a school survey to determine the
57 prevalence of bullying, (3) establishment of a bullying prevention
58 coordinating committee with broad representation to review the
59 survey results and implement the strategy, (4) school rules prohibiting
60 bullying, harassment and intimidation and establishing appropriate
61 consequences for those who engage in such acts, (5) adequate adult
62 supervision of outdoor areas, hallways, the lunchroom and other
63 specific areas where bullying is likely to occur, (6) inclusion of grade-
64 appropriate bullying prevention curricula in kindergarten through
65 high school, (7) individual interventions with the bully, parents and
66 school staff, and interventions with the bullied child, parents and
67 school staff, (8) school-wide training related to safe school climate, and
68 (9) promotion of parent involvement in bullying prevention through
69 individual or team participation in meetings, trainings and individual
70 interventions.

71 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is
72 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
73 *1, 2009*):

74 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide an in-
75 service training program for its teachers, administrators and pupil
76 personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or
77 professional educator certificate. Such program shall provide such
78 teachers, administrators and pupil personnel with information on (1)
79 the nature and the relationship of drugs, as defined in subdivision (17)

80 of section 21a-240, and alcohol to health and personality development,
81 and procedures for discouraging their abuse, (2) health and mental
82 health risk reduction education which includes, but need not be
83 limited to, the prevention of risk-taking behavior by children and the
84 relationship of such behavior to substance abuse, pregnancy, sexually
85 transmitted diseases, including HIV-infection and AIDS, as defined in
86 section 19a-581, violence, child abuse and youth suicide, (3) the growth
87 and development of exceptional children, including handicapped and
88 gifted and talented children and children who may require special
89 education, including, but not limited to, children with attention-deficit
90 hyperactivity disorder or learning disabilities, and methods for
91 identifying, planning for and working effectively with special needs
92 children in a regular classroom, (4) school violence prevention, [and]
93 conflict resolution and prevention of bullying, as defined in subsection
94 (a) of section 10-222d, as amended by this act, except that those boards
95 of education that implement an evidence-based model approach,
96 consistent with this act, shall not be required to provide in-service
97 training on prevention of bullying, (5) cardiopulmonary resuscitation
98 and other emergency life saving procedures, (6) computer and other
99 information technology as applied to student learning and classroom
100 instruction, communications and data management, (7) the teaching of
101 the language arts, reading and reading readiness for teachers in grades
102 kindergarten to three, inclusive, and (8) second language acquisition in
103 districts required to provide a program of bilingual education
104 pursuant to section 10-17f. The State Board of Education, within
105 available appropriations and utilizing available materials, shall assist
106 and encourage local and regional boards of education to include: (A)
107 Holocaust education and awareness; (B) the historical events
108 surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (C) African-American
109 history; (D) Puerto Rican history; (E) Native American history; (F)
110 personal financial management; and (G) topics approved by the state
111 board upon the request of local or regional boards of education as part
112 of in-service training programs pursuant to this subsection.

113 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) (a) The Department of

114 Education shall, within available appropriations, (1) examine the
115 effectiveness of bullying policies developed pursuant to section 10-
116 222d of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and related school
117 practices, in reducing bullying and harassment in schools, (2) examine
118 the relationship between bullying and school climate and the incidence
119 of student suicide, (3) document school districts' articulated needs for
120 technical assistance and training related to safe learning and bullying,
121 (4) collect information on the prevention and intervention strategies
122 utilized by schools to reduce the incidence of bullying, improve school
123 climate and improve reporting on outcomes, (5) document the
124 department's response to the needs identified in subdivision (3) of this
125 subsection, and (6) develop model policies for grades kindergarten to
126 twelve, inclusive, for the prevention of bullying and creation of a safe
127 school learning environment, based upon best practices. On or before
128 March 1, 2010, the department shall submit a report on the status of
129 efforts by school districts and the department to achieve a safe school
130 climate, including, but not limited to, prevention and intervention
131 strategies implemented under section 10-222d of the general statutes,
132 as amended by this act, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general
133 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
134 having cognizance of matters relating to education and to the select
135 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
136 relating to children.

137 (b) The department may accept private donations for the purposes
138 of this section.

139 Sec. 8. Subsection (d) of section 10-145a of the general statutes is
140 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
141 *1, 2009*):

142 (d) Any candidate in a program of teacher preparation leading to
143 professional certification shall be encouraged to complete a school
144 violence, bullying and suicide prevention and conflict resolution
145 component of such a program."